

IN THE CLAIMS

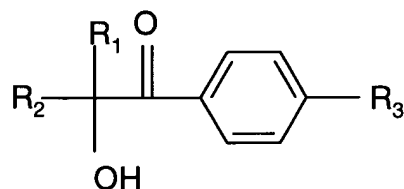
Kindly amend the claims to read as follows.

1-11. (cancelled),

12. (original): A method of reducing the residual monomer content in a water soluble or water swellable polymer by subjecting the polymer to ultra violet irradiation in the presence of an ultra violet initiator.

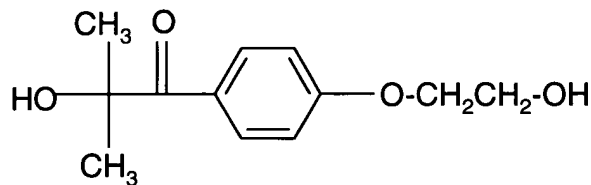
13. (original): A method according to claim 12 in which the polymer is a polymer of acrylamide of intrinsic viscosity above 4 dl/g.

14. (currently amended): A method according to claim 12 ~~or claim 13~~ in which the ultra violet initiator is a compound of formula:

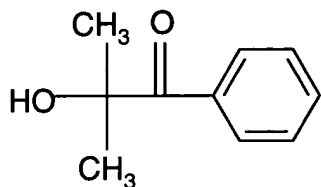


wherein R_1 and R_2 are each independently C_{1-3} alkyl or together form a C_{4-8} cycloaliphatic ring, R_3 is H, C_{1-2} alkyl or $-O(CH_2CH_2)_nOH$ and n is 1-20.

15. (original): A method according to claim 14 in which the ultra violet initiator is a compound of formula:



16. (original); A method according to claim 15 in which the ultra violet initiator is a compound of formula:



17-19. (cancelled).

20. (new): A method according to claim 12 in which the ultraviolet initiator is applied to the surface of the formed polymer and allowed to coat the surface of the polymer and then subjecting the polymer to ultraviolet radiation.

21. (new): A method according to claim 12 in which the ultraviolet initiator is absorbed into the polymer before being subjected to irradiation by ultraviolet light.